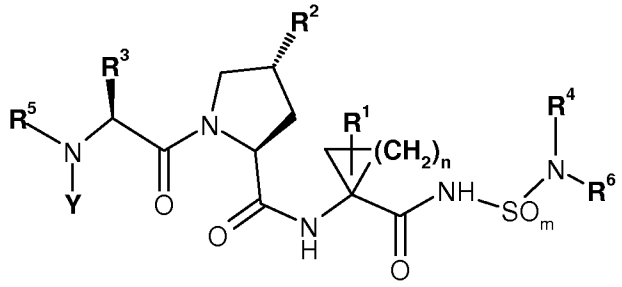
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

n is 1;

m is 2;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is ethyl or vinyl;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from $-CH_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-NH-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, and $-O-\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein

X is (C_{2-3})alkenyl, (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het**, wherein said $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$; wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, oxo, thioxo, $-O\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-S\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-N(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and $-CON(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, and aryl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{202}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2000}}$ in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from

halogen, aryl, **Het**, -O**R**^{2001}, cyano, -N(**R**^{2002})(**R**^{2001}), and **R**^{2003}, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl;

R^{2001} in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, -C(O)-**R**^{2003}, –C(O)O-**R**^{2003};

R^{2002} in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

R^{2003} in each case is independently selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl;

R^{3} is (C_{1-8})alkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted with one substituent selected from, -O**R**^{30}, -C(=O)O**R**^{30}, wherein **R**^{30} is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-;

R^{5} is selected from **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-N(**R**^{51})-C(=O)-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C_{1-6})alkyl, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

R^{51} is selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted or (C_{1-10})alkyl substituted with halogen when **R**^{5} is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

R^{4} and **R**^{6} are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl,

(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, –COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

R^4 and **R^6** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -CO-NH_2, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -COOH, and -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein

n is 1;

m is 2;

R^1 is ethyl or vinyl;

R^2 is selected from -CH_2-**R^{20}**, -NH-**R^{20}**, -O-**R^{20}**, and -O-**X**-**R^{20}**, wherein **X** is (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$; wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, oxo, thioxo, -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -SO$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and -CON($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, and aryl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{202}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2000}}$ in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -O$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, cyano, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2001}}$), and $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, -C(O)-$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{2002}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$ in each case is independently selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)- wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C_{1-6})alkyl, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently

from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$;

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is H;

provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted or (C_{1-10})alkyl substituted with halogen when $\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ and –COOH, or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -CO-NH_2, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated,

unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

3. **(Currently amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-; wherein **B** and $\mathbf{R^{51}}$ are defined as in claim 1, provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted or (C_{1-10})alkyl substituted with halogen when $\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein $\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is H and **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-7})alkyl optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with -$COOCH_3$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-methyl-, each optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy;

provided that B is not (C_{1-7})alkyl unsubstituted or (C_{1-7})alkyl substituted with halogen when $\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-.

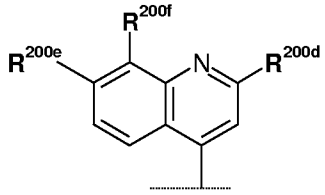
5. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **Y** is H.

6. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^3}$ is *tert*-butyl.

7. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ and -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ and **X** are defined as in claim 1.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{X}$-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{X}$ is (C_3)alkynyl and $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is (C_6 or C_{10})aryl.

9. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

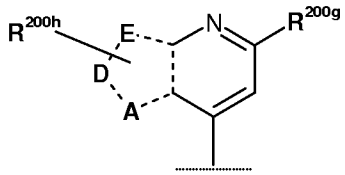
$\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{200e}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200f}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl optionally further substituted with (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or phenyl.

10. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 9 wherein $\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is ethyl.

11. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$\mathbf{R^{200g}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl or (C_{2-6})alkenyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl

and $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl; wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

12. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **n** is 1.

13. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$ is vinyl.

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

(i) $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, and -COOH; or

(ii) $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$, -COOH, and –COO$(C_{1-6})$alkyl.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

n is 1;

m is 2;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is ethyl or vinyl;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ and -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein

X is (C_{2-3})alkenyl, (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het** is optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$, wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, oxo, thioxo, -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -SO$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and -CON($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl and aryl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{202}}$ is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2000}}$ is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -O$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, cyano, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2001}}$), and $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, -C(O)-$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$,

$\mathbf{R^{2002}}$ is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -OH, halogen, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$,

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$,

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

provided that **B** is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted or (C_{1-10})alkyl substituted with halogen, when $\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$, –COOH, and -COO$(C_{1-6})$alkyl; or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$, $-CO-NH_2$, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$, -COOH, and –COO$(C_{1-6})$alkyl;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) $(C_{1\text{-}10})$alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO$(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)$(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, -O$(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH$(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, -N$((C_{1\text{-}6})\text{alkyl})_2$,

(ii) $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl, or $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl-$(C_{1\text{-}4})$alkyl-,

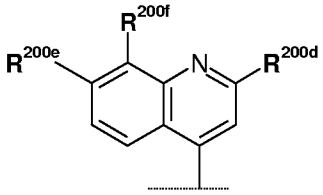
provided that **B** is not $(C_{1\text{-}10})$alkyl unsubstituted or $(C_{1\text{-}10})$alkyl substituted with halogen, when $\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is *tert*-butyl;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein **X** is (C_3)alkynyl and $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl; or

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



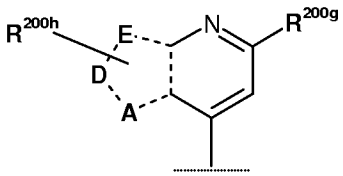
wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is $(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{200e}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is $(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200f}}$ is $(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl, halogen, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is $(C_{1\text{-}6})$alkyl optionally further substituted with $(C_{3\text{-}7})$cycloalkyl or phenyl;

or $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a

single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$\mathbf{R^{200g}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl or (C_{2-6})alkenyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl and $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl; wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is ethyl or vinyl;

n is 1;

m is 2; and

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$,–COOH, and -COO$(C_{1-6})$alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

18. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

19. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A method of treating a hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

21. – 22. **(Canceled)**

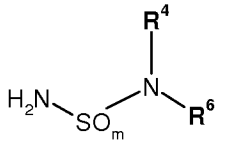
23. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent .

26. **(Previously Presented)** A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:

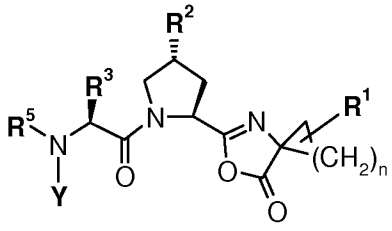
a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein $\mathbf{R^4}$, $\mathbf{R^6}$ and **m** are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

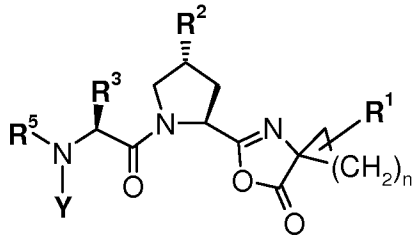
b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):



(III)

wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$, $\mathbf{R^5}$, **Y** and **n** are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

27. **(Original)** An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$, $\mathbf{R^5}$, **Y** and **n** are defined as in claim 1.

28. **(Canceled)**